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REVIEWS AND NOTES

Statistics, by William B. Bailey, Ph.D. and John Cummings, Ph.D.
The National Social Science Series, A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago,
1917.

The editor of the National Social Science series in his preface to this new diminutive book on statistics says "The value of a knowledge of statistics grows every day in the fields of business, government and social work. Most of the books devoted to its acquirement are either intricate or too extended. This book has been written with the purpose of avoiding these difficulties."

How simple statistics would be if a good practical working knowledge of them could actually be conveyed to the non-mathematical novice in one hundred and forty seven brief pages of about two hundred and fifty words each. The task set the writers was indeed difficult and one is surprised not that they failed to produce in such brief compass a thorough schematic elementary working handbook but that they succeeded in getting so much that is good into so little, many times even working in suggestions designed to give perfection of detail.

To criticise the book is difficult. It has the merit of its principal defect, brevity. Time and time again one wishes that the writers had gone further, had given us on this point or that the rich fruits of their experience but they must always have been conscious of the limitations of space. One must consider too that the book was not intended as a work for professional statisticians nor as an elementary treatise for students but as an aid for the social workers who venture in the statistical field. To them it will undoubtedly prove profitable and helpful and much of its illustrative material is generally interesting to all who use statistical methods.

The book has nine chapters as follows: I. Importance of Statistics (four pages). II. The Field of Study (three pages). III. Gathering the Raw Material (nine pages). IV. Editing Schedules (nine pages). V. Tabulation (twenty five pages). VI. Ratios (forty one pages). VII. Averages (seventeen pages). VIII. Graphic Representation (twenty two pages) and IX. Correlation (seventeen pages).

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